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CFR Targets Russia's Putin

Propaganda campaign launched by members of elite group

By Michael Collins Piper

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has, for all intents and purposes, officially declared a new "Cold War" on Russia. Some might say it was "just a coincidence" that this past Dec. 7 — the momentous anniversary of Pearl Harbor — the nation's two most influential newspapers, ***The Washington Post*** and ***The New York Times***, featured heavyhanded attacks on President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

This came at a time when the CFR was announcing the formation of a new "bipartisan task force" to study U.S.-Russian relations. And now, several months later, the CFR report is out and its conclusions don't bode well for Putin. The Russian leader is clearly in the gun sights of the powerful international interests often loosely described as "the New World Order."

In truth, during the past several years, as Putin aggressively moved against the billionaire oligarchs who were looting the Russian economy (and then, in some instances, fleeing to Israel for refuge), the U.S.-based major print and broadcast media began increasingly taking shots at the Russian leader.

However, the fact that the most potent blasts at Putin just happened to appear in tandem, on Dec. 7, struck many Russia-watchers as most interesting and symbolic, to say the least.

The Washington Post featured an editorial entitled "The Anti-Democracy Agenda" raising the question: "Is Russia a partner of the United States in the war on terrorism?" The Post then went on to assert "You wouldn't know it from the bitter campaign Moscow is waging to thwart President Bush's democracy agenda in Muslim Central Asia," referring to Putin's support for Uzbek President Islam Karimov and what the Post calls "an emerging Moscow-led bloc of dictatorships" including Belarus, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

The ***Post*** scored Putin for lending aid to the leaders of these nations and then demanded an answer to this query: "Is this the act of a partner, or an adversary?" The Post said that it was time for President Bush "to stop ducking that question." Clearly, the Post's answer to the question was implicit in its question.

Meanwhile, on that same significant date, Dec. 7, ***The New York Times*** offered its readers a remarkably similarsounding op-ed piece entitled "Moscow's Empty Red Square." Just a "coincidence," of course.

The commentary, charging that Russia under Putin is "becoming steadily less democratic," was signed by the Democratic Party's 2004 vice presidential candidate, former Sen. John Edwards (N.C.), and the Republican Party's 1996 vice presidential candidate, Jack Kemp.

And what is of particular interest to note is that this duo just happened to be sharing the chairmanship of a task force on U.S. policy toward Russia then just set in place by the CFR.

The powerful New York-based branch of the London-based Royal Institute on International Affairs — which is funded by the Rothschild family, who are major patrons of Israel — the CFR was, for years, under the domination of the Rockefeller family. In recent years, however, a major pro-Israel financier, Maurice "Hank" Greenberg, has emerged as a key figure behind the CFR.

The CFR is spearheading this new unit to monitor — in fact, pressure — Russia to follow the dictates of the United States under the Bush administration's push for global democracy, a theme enunciated by Bush's Soviet-born (but non-Russian) intellectual mentor, Natan Sharansky. Currently a leading figure in Israeli political affairs, Sharansky is the guiding force behind the Bush foreign policy, having been so acknowledged as such by Bush.

In tackling Putin, Edwards and Kemp said, "Russia faces a choice between entering the mainstream of the modern world, or trapping itself in an eddy of reaction and isolation."

The CFR spokesmen told Putin that he must shelve proposed legislation that would crack down on domestic opposition. This comes at a time when many Russian legislators and public opinion leaders have been speaking openly about the power of domestic Zionist groups that are viewed as troublesome for Russia, particularly because of their international ties and their links to the billionaire oligarchs and allied forces in Israel.

More recently, Edwards and Kemp and their so-called "bipartisan task force" issued their official report, under CFR auspices, echoing and formally enunciating the same themes they had already outlined in their Dec. 7 attack on Putin in the Times.

The CFR report insists that the Bush administration take a hard line toward Putin. The CFR's task force said that Putin's policies may not be in the best interests of the United States. The report said that "The very idea of 'strategic partnership' [between the U.S. and Russia] no longer seems realistic." In other words, the CFR has declared a new "Cold War" against Russia.

And now, of course, on the heels of the release of this CFR report, there are rumors (from sources unknown) that Russia may have fed U.S. military secrets to the government of Saddam Hussein prior to the U.S. invasion of the now-destroyed Arabic republic.

Such rumors, having received widespread attention in the major media in America, only tend to feed the anti- Putin frenzy that has already been triggered. However, before American patriots jump on the anti-Putin and anti-Russia bandwagon, they should keep an eye on precisely what forces are driving it.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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